

Application No.: «09/965,610»

Case No.: «56032US022»

B. Remarks

Claims 1-21 and 23-38 are pending in this application. Applicants submit that amended claims 1, 30, and 35-37 overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. The amendments to the claims herein are submitted to expedite prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant preserves the right to file a continuing patent application that includes claims 1, 23, 30, and 35-38 as originally filed. Applicant does not surrender the scope of claims of the above claims by acquiescing in the Office Action's rejection of these claims.

Claims 1-21 and 23-38 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garbe et al. (WO 96/08229) in view of Cleary (EP 0483105 A1). In view of the foregoing matters, including the cancellation of claims 10-15, 19-20, 22-27, 32-34, and 38, and amendment of claims 1, 30, and 35-37, it is believed that this rejection is moot.

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the issues presented in the Office Action. It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance, and the allowance of the application is now solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Oct. 20, 2004

Date

By: Ted Ringsred

Ted Ringsred, Reg. No.: 35,638

Telephone No.: (651) 736-5839

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833